(Free-to-Air DTH) transmission service 'DD Direct Plus' was approved with a capital cost of Rs. 53.80 crore (Works - Rs. 2.80 cr, Equipment - Rs. 51.00 cr.) Out of which till now Rs. 19.26 crore have been incurred on this project. Its bouquet comprising thirty-three TV and twelve Radio channels has been made fully operational since its launch on 16th Dec. 2004 with the existing trained manpower.

(b) and (c) Standing Committee on Information Technology (2004-05), in its 18th report on Demands for Grants (2005-06), had observed that 14 Doordarshan projects were not being put to use on account of shortage of manpower. Out of these 14 projects (5 Studios and 9 LPTs), 11 projects (3 Studios and 8 LPTs) have since been commissioned by deployment of limited staff drawn from other Doordarshan Kendras.

Broadcasting of programmes by FM stations

2202. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have analysed the programmes broadcast by FM stations in the country;

(b) if so, whether they conform to the mandate given to them;

(c) whether it is a fact that these stations are not permitted to broadcast local or regional bulletins; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) All India Radio broadcasts news and current affairs programmes on its FM Channels, Private FM Stations, as per Phase-I and Phase-II policy guidelines, are not permitted to broadcast News and Current Affairs programmes.

Insurance scheme for journalists

2203. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide insurance scheme for journalists;